

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY

It is with sorrow that the Durban Amateur Radio Club announces the passing away of Vic, ZS5UN. Vic was well known to his many friends on both HF and VHF. He obtained his licence during the early sixties and had always been active on HF bands, later joining in the VHF activities as well when this came about.

ZS5UN was always available to help his fellow amateurs and took part in club activities.

Our condolences to Sally and juniors Darren and Charlene, other relatives and friends. Rest in peace Vic.

(PAUSE)

In the news today.

RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION LECTURE ON OCTOBER 9

REWARD PERFORMING AMATEURS IN YOUR CLUB

INTECNET TO FOCUS ON APRS

47th JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

Some news items for this bulletin were only received on Friday evening and due to the editor going to take part in the VHF/UHF contest this bulletin was compiled on Friday and the new items will have to stand over till next week.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION LECTURE ON OCTOBER 9

All radio amateurs are invited to enjoy the Saturday morning of the 9th October at the NARC when Hal Lund, ZS6WB, will lead a discussion on the various new modes now changing the VHF and UHF scene. The activities will run from 10:00 - 12:00. The entrance fee is R20 which includes refreshments and is payable at the door.

To assist with arrangements, please book your seat by sending an Email to rta@sarl.org.za. Also visit the SARL website for more details: www.sarl.org.za.

REWARD PERFORMING AMATEURS IN YOUR CLUB

Clubs are being reminded that only about two weeks remain to submit your nominations for the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year and Young Radio Amateur of the Year Awards. The awards are suitable tributes to amateurs in your club who renders valuable service to amateur radio.

Full details on the requirements for the awards appear on the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust Website at www.amateurradio.org.za. The last day for the submission of nominations is 30 September.

INTECNET TO FOCUS ON APRS

From October 4 - 10 world space week will be celebrated in South Africa. It will culminate with Intechnet on the 10th October at 20:00 CAT in a discussion on APRS with be Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the father of APRS.

Clubs are invited to make early arrangements to link their repeaters and celebrate International Space Week with an exciting APRS talk show. To book a link send an email to armi@sarl.org.za with details of your club, repeater and telephone number to be linked.

47th JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR: JOTA

Please note the date for this event ie. 16th - 17th OCTOBER 2004. It is always held over the third complete week-end in October and includes JAMBOREE-on-the INTERNET, JOTI.

Once again, it is expected that this year there will be an increase in the use of IRLP and ECHOLINK by JOTA stations. All participating stations are encouraged to try these systems as well.

The JOTA Participation Cards which were printed in Geneva have already reached Dave, ZS6AAW. Please send him the name and postal address of the scout or guide group for whom you will be setting up a station as soon as possible so that your share will reach you in time. Dave's address details are: Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, P.O.Box 77, Irene, 0062 or Tel 012-6672153 or e-mail davegemmell@bmknet.co.za.

In order to assist with JOTA/JOTI please ensure that the SARL office has the following information: a) your correct station and personal details, especially

your postal address; b) the “registration” of your personal and/or special event callsigns as educational stations.

Note that it is your duty as the operator of the JOTA station to register its callsign as an EDUCATIONAL STATION at the SARL office. The advantages are two-fold: 1) the guides, scouts or other unlicensed persons will be allowed to talk on the ham bands. 2) details of all SA stations taking part will be recorded. This is helpful when the SA National JOTA/JOTI Report is being compiled.

For the latest JOTA and JOTI information, watch the web site www.scout.org/jota. or www.scout.org/joti.

VHF/UHF COMPETITION

Competitors please be informed that the multiplier for contacts in the 4 m, 70 MHz band is 4. Log sheets are to be sent to John Fielding, P O Box 256, Monteseel MCP, 3670 or via email to johnf@futurenet.co.za.

This news item from Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, SA National JOTA/JOTI Co-ordinator

TRIBUTE TO AUTHOR OF WINPACK AND UI-VIEW

Here is the tribute by Richard, G4TUT, to Roger Barker, G41DE, who was the author of the Winpack and UI-View software programs and whose key went silent on 9 September:

Roger worked tirelessly for many years to provide high-quality software for radio amateurs, allowing them to operate advanced digital modes without the difficulties once associated with those modes.

Roger’s superb packet radio program Winpack is currently in use by tens of thousands of radio amateurs around the world, while his UI-View program is now considered to be the benchmark by which all other APRS Raster Mapping software is compared.

Having written the software, he ensured that it was extensively supported. One mailing list reportedly had over 35,000 messages. Roger is said to have read each one these, and replied to a significant number of them.

From my own personal experience, I can recall a problem that I had with the GB7TUT BBS software a couple of years ago. Somehow (and I do not know how), Roger got to hear of this problem and immediately volunteered to help.

He logged-on to the BBS several times and spent a good deal of his own spare time working on a solution. Needless to say, he found it and provided a permanent fix for me. Had it have not been for Roger’s efforts, I would probably still be suffering that same problem to this day. I was just one of the many hundreds of people that Roger always endeavoured to help whenever he could.

As a sign of the high regard in which he was held, he was recently awarded a ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ by the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR)

for his services to digital communications - the first award of its kind ever made by TAPR in its 22-year history.

The name Roger Barker and the call sign G4IDE are sure to live-on in amateur radio long, long after his passing.

He was one of the 'true greats' of amateur radio and will be sadly missed.

NEW COMMITTEE FOR MAGALIES RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Magalies Radio Amateur Club held its AGM on 11 Sept. 2004 and elected the following members to serve on the committee for the ensuing year:

Chairman: George Honiball, ZS6NE; Vice chairman: Pieter Scholtz, ZS6LC; Secretary: Andriëtte Nel, ZR6RIE; Treasurer: Nico du Toit, ZR6AFJ; Technical: Japie Nel, ZR6JN; Webmaster: Chris Bothma, ZS6MVK; Public Relations: Chris Smit, ZS6FCS; Social affairs: Jenny Nel, ZR6JWN; Communication services: Marco Nel, ZR6JMN.

Trophies and merit certificates were handed over to a number of members who performed meritorious services for the club and in the interest of amateur radio during the past year. Past chairmen also received certificates to acknowledge their services in the years gone by.

Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, president of the SARL, his wife Natasha and the chairmen of the Pretoria and Centurion clubs, with their SW's, were guests of honour at the buffet which followed to celebrate the club's 40th birthday. Graham presented a short but informative slide show during the AGM which put the minds of those present to rest regarding the league's financial position and urged radio amateurs to join the SARL.

The SARL thanks the outgoing committee for a job well done and wishes the new committee a successful year at office.

STOLEN APPARATUS - APOLOGY

During the previous week a message was given telephonically to the SARL office regarding a burglary, I think on the east rand, during which a transceiver had been stolen. The editor requested that details be forwarded by email to Sarlnews for inclusion in the bulletin. Somewhere something went wrong and the message never reached the editor. Sarlnews offers its apologies to the amateur who suffered the loss. Amateurs are requested to be on the alert should a set perhaps be offered under suspicious circumstances, such as very cheaply, and to then obtain details of the seller and inform Sarlnews.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Kobus, ZS6KOB, is back after having spent two pleasant weeks in Mauritius and he has the following to say: It is clear that the approaching summer is already having its effect on propagation conditions. In spite of the low sunspot numbers there were good openings during the last few days and the bands also remain open till later. Even on the long path there were good openings to the USA. In

general the DX conditions were not too good. Even on 40 m background noise was at times pretty high and at other times conditions were again very good. On Thursday the sunspot number was 60,6. It started declining as from the 8th September and it is expected to continue to do so up to a next maximum around and about the end of the month. It was only 10 on the 1st but then started to increase very fast. Sun winds varied between 542 and 677 km/sec, mainly on account of the inflow of very fast currents of coronal mass between 14 and 16 September. No mentionable corona openings are expected during the next few days. There are presently very few active areas on the sun. The forecasted average sunspot number for September is estimated at 34,2 as against 59,6 of September 2003.

DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

25 September: SAATI AGM and bring and braai at 12:00. Please advise either Richard, ZR6CK, at 012-333-0612 or Ams, ZS6YV, at 012-664-3629 of your intention to attend; 26 September: President's net at 20:00 on an interactive mode; 30 September: Closing date for nominations for Radio Amateur of the Year awards; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; 7 October: Second leg of the SARL 80 Metre QSO Party; 9 October: RTA lecture on new VHF modes at the NARC; 10 October: Intechnet; Contributions to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership are still welcome; Please submit your articles for Radio ZS to radiozs@sarl.org.za; Please send A5 size self addressed envelopes with postage stamps to cover 200 g (R4,35) to the NARC to enable delivery of your QSL cards to you.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX